



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/714,722	11/15/2000	Peter Dahl	RESH-001	1564

7590

05/01/2003

WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP  
Third Floor  
Two North Market Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

EXAMINER

TRAN, THIEN F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2811

DATE MAILED: 05/01/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/714,722

Applicant(s)

DAHL ET AL.

Examiner

Thien Tran

Art Unit

2811

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 and 50-52 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 6 and 37 are objected to because of the following informalities: lines 1-2, "said obstructions includes" should be --said obstructions include--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 20 and 49 are objected to because of the following informalities: line 2, "said obstructions includes" should be --said obstructions include--. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 49 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 49 recites the limitation "said obstructions" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-48 and 50-52 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Prior art reference does not teach or renders obvious a method of improving a physical design of a current integrated circuit comprising the steps of receiving physical design information from a prior integrated circuit; and generating said physical design based on a netlist of the current integrated circuit and said physical design information.

Prior art reference does not teach or renders obvious a computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions stored therein for performing a method of improving a physical design of a current integrated circuit, said method comprising receiving physical design information from a prior integrated circuit; and generating said physical design based on a netlist of the current integrated circuit and said physical design information.

Prior art reference does not teach or renders obvious a method of determining a plurality of pins for each block of a physical design of a current integrated circuit comprising receiving physical design information from a prior integrated circuit, wherein said physical design information includes pin assignments of blocks of said prior integrated circuit; using a netlist of said current integrated circuit and said physical design information to perform a top level placement for a plurality of ports corresponding to each block of said current integrated circuit; using said netlist and said physical design information to perform a top level route for said ports to determine pin assignments for each block of said current integrated circuit; and generating each pin for each block based on said top level route to determine pin assignments.

Art Unit: 2811

Prior art reference does not teach or renders obvious a computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions stored therein for performing a method of determining a plurality of pins for each block of a physical design of a current integrated circuit comprising receiving physical design information from a prior integrated circuit, wherein said physical design information includes pin assignments of blocks of said prior integrated circuit; using a netlist of said current integrated circuit and said physical design information to perform a top level placement for a plurality of ports corresponding to each block of said current integrated circuit; using said netlist and said physical design information to perform a top level route for said ports to determine pin assignments for each block of said current integrated circuit; and generating each pin for each block based on said top level route to determine pin assignments.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Reference A is being cited since it shows a physical design of an integrated circuit

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thien Tran whose telephone number is (703) 308-4108. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM - 5:00PM Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Thomas can be reached on (703) 308-2772. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9318 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.

Application/Control Number: 09/714,722

Page 5

Art Unit: 2811

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

tt  
April 28, 2003



Thien Tran  
Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2800